

WELSH BOARD
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NEYLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1953.

W.J.Y.Speedy.

M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P.& S., L.R.F.P & S., D.P.H., Ba.O.

Sanitary Inspector. A.J.Gould.A.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.
M.S.I.A.

Clerk of the Council. F.Foster.

CONTENTS.

1. Preface to the Report.
2. Constitution of Committees.
3. Part 1. Vital Statistics.
 - (a) Summary of Vital Statistics.
 - (b) Births & Birth-rates.
 - (c) Deaths & Death-rates.
 - (d) Infectious Diseases.
 - (e) Tuberculosis.
4. Part II. Environmental Hygiene.
 - (a) Milk supplies.
 - (b) Water supplies.
 - (c) Food control.
 - (d) Housing.
 - (e) Factories & Workshops.
5. Part III. General Sanitation.
 - (a) Refuse Disposal.
 - (b) Sewage Disposal.
 - (c) Public Conveniences.
 - (d) General nuisances.
 - (e) Disinfection & Disinfestation.
 - (f) Rodent control.
 - (g) Mortuaries.
 - (h) Public Houses.

Preface to the Report.

District Health Depart.
County Offices.
Haverfordwest.

July, 1954.

To the Neyland Urban
District Council.

Mr.Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my
Annual Report for the year 1953.

The population remains substantially
the same as for the prece ding year. There was an
increase in the Birth-rate and a decrease in the
Death-rate as compared with 1952.

The incidence and mortality from
Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) were both
small.

The number of milk samples taken over
the year was rather small to give reliable results.
Milk sampling should be considerably increased.

The quality of the water supply is,
generally speaking, good. There is difficulty,
however, over supply. The proposed additional main
from the service reservoir is urgently needed.

The Government are giving full support
to Housing authorities in making Clearance Orders.
There is an opportunity here of improving the
District generally. Property owners should also
be encouraged, and given the facilities of making
use of the Improvements Grant scheme. By doing so
many housing problems should eventually be solved.

I would like to thank the members of
the Council and the staff, for their continued
courtesy & co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W.J.Y.Speedy.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL & CONSTITUTION OF RELEVANT
COMMITTEES 1952 - 1953.

Chairman of Council. Coun. T.Mends.
Vice-Chairman of Council. Coun. J.Betty.

Sanitary,Highways & Water Committee.

Chairman. Coun. G.F.Rees.
Vice-Chairman. Coun. W.A.Rudge.
Members. Councillors: A.J.Gillam, J.A.Johns,
T.Mends, J.H.Nicholas, J.Betty,
G.W.Simpson.

Housing Committee.

Chairman. Coun. S.C.Webb,
Vice-Chairman. Coun. E.Dummer.
Members. Councillors: H.Brown, W.H.Charles,
W.T.Jacob, J.C.John, T.Mends,
G.S.Parry.

PART. I.VITAL STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY.SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.- 1953.

1. Estimated Mid-year Population	= 2217
2. Natural Increase in Population (Live births minus deaths)	= +10
3. General Birth-Rate	= 19.9. (a)
4. Corrected Birth-Rate	= 14.8. (a)
5. Still Birth-Rate	= 0
6. General Death-Rate.	= 10.3. (a)
7. Corrected Death-Rate	= 10.7. (a)

(a) Per 1000 population.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.Classification of Births.

	<u>Live Births.</u>			<u>Still Births.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	15	17	32	-	-	-
Illegitimate.	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Births (Live & Still) for 1953						= 33
Total Live Births				"	"	= 33
Still Births				"	"	= Nil
Illegitimate Births				"	"	= 1

General Birth-Rates.

General Birth-Rate for District for 1953
= 14.8/1000 op.
Corrected Birth-Rate for District for 1953
= 15.9/1000 Pop.
General Birth-Rate for England & Wales for 1953
= 15.5/1000 Pop.

Still Birth-Rates.

Still Birth-Rate for District 1953 = Nil

Illegitimate Birth Rates.

Illegitimate Birth-Rate for District for 1953
= 0.45/1000 Pop.

Discussion of Birth Statistics.

The general Birth-Rate for the District compares favourably with the national rate and it is considerably higher than the rate for the previous year.

There were no Still Births during the year.

There is one Illegitimate Birth which is the same figure as for the five previous years.

Deaths & Death-Rates.

<u>Classification of Deaths.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	6	4	10
Cancer (All forms)	3	1	4
Diseases of Brain & Nervous System	-	2	2
Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
Infectious Diseases	-	1	1
Unclassified	2	1	3
	-----		-----
Total	13	10	23

General Death-Rate.

General Death-Rate for District for 1953
 = 10.3/1000 Pop.
 Corrected Death-Rate for District for 1953
 = 10.7/1000 Pop.
 General Death-Rate for England & Wales for 1953
 = 11.4/1000 Pop.

Deaths according to Age-groups.

0 - 1 years of age	= 1	30 - 50 years of age	= 2
1 - 15 " " "	= 0	50 - 70 " " "	= 6
15-30 " " "	= 0	70 + " " "	= 14

Infant Mortality.

There was one Infant Death during the year. This death was due to Asphyxia and occurred in the first month of life.

Cancer - Mortality.

There were 4 deaths due to Cancer which is the same as the preceding year.

Violent Deaths.

There were no Violent Deaths during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.Incidence.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Whooping Cough	3	3	6
Measles	2	1	3
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2
Erysipelas	1	-	1
	-----		-----
Total	7	5	12

This reflects a low incidence of Infectious Diseases. For the 7th successive year there has not been a case of Diphtheria. Also the absence of poliomyelitis and Enteric group of diseases will be noted

Mortality.

One Death, due to Influenza, occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one fresh case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year. This is the same as for the preceding year. There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No cases of this disease and no deaths were notified during the year.

PART IIENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.MILK SUPPLIES.General Bacteriological Sampling.

This scheme was continued during the year, with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen. The Methylene Blue Reduction was the Test routine test applied.

The results of the sampling were as follows:-

Satisfactory	=	20	samples
Doubtful	=	2	"
Unsatisfactory	=	4	"

Total	=	26	"

These results were not as good as the previous year, but the total number of samples taken was rather low, and hence the rate of unsatisfactory samples is bound to be higher.

To arrive at a reasonable estimate, approximately 50 samples are required in the year.

Biological Sampling.

Six samples were taken during the year for specific bacteriological testing. All proved to be negative.

Statistics.

The number of producers/in the district are as follows:-

	<u>Designated.</u>		<u>Non-designated.</u>	
	<u>Raw.</u>	<u>Past.</u>	<u>Raw.</u>	<u>Past.</u>
Producers only	2	-	2	-
Producers-Retailers.	-	-	-	-
Retailers only	2	-	3+	-

+ at the end of the year this figure reduced to 2.

No. of Dairy Inspections	= 10
No. of warning letters	= Nil
Deletions from register	= 1
Additions to register	= Nil

General.

As a result of unsatisfactory samples received during the year from Retailers whose dairies are situated outside the Urban Area contact was made with the Sanitary Inspector for the adjoining rural area. This resulted in close supervision of the dairies concerned, with a corresponding improvement in sampling results.

WATER SUPPLIES.Supply & Storage.

The source of the water supply is the Prescelly gathering grounds in North Pembrokeshire. The water is a typical upland surface water, being soft, and somewhat acid.

There is an impounding reservoir at Prescelly with a modern filtration and chlorination plant.

A Branch main from the Prescelly trunk serves the Neyland Service Reservoir, on the outskirts of Neyland. The capacity of this Reservoir is 50,000 gallons, or approximately one days supply. this is inadequate to meet emergencies.

General.

The bacteriological sampling of water continued during the year, and also samples were taken for chemical analysis. In general the water supplies were found to be bacteriologically pure. The result of the chemical analysis were indicative of a good potable supply, although isolated samples showed large amounts of suspended iron. There has been an increase in the amount of leakage. This has not yet reached serious proportions, but can be expected to increase as the internal condition of the pipe deteriorates. Investigation into the possible treatment of the mains with a glassy metaphosphate solution called 'Calgon' were conducted, and it is hoped that it may be possible to limit and control corrosion by using this product. All premises now have a piped water supply.

Water Consumption.

Consumption has remained steady over the year at approximately 50,000 gallons per day.

The increased consumption has brought other difficulties, the most noticeable being the lack of pressure head in the higher parts of the town at times of peak use.

Cases have frequently occurred during the year of some houses with hot water systems running completely out of water at week ends. In such cases fires have had to be hurriedly raked out until the supply was resumed. A scheme for a duplicate main from the reservoir to the town has started early in 1954, this, it is hoped, will alleviate some of the pressure difficulties. The final answer, the provision of a higher reservoir, is also expected to be completed in 1954.

Provision of Double Mains.

The scheme to provide a duplicate main from the Reservoir to the Town has not commenced during the year, owing to the long delivery periods of the materials involved. It is hoped the coming year will see the start of this much needed improvement.

FOOD CONTROL.Registered Premises-Food & Drugs Act.

Sale of Ice Cream.	= 9
Slaughterhouses	= Nil
Manufacture & Sale of Sausages	= 3
Sale of Preserved foods	= 1
Knackers Yards	= 0

Total	13

All registered premises were inspected during the year, total number of inspections made were 37.

Ice Cream Supplies.

The scheme for the general bacteriological sampling of Ice Cream was carried out during the year, with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen.

The results of sampling were as follows :-

Grade I	(Highly Satisfactory)	= 17
Grade II	(Satisfactory)	= 4
Grade III	(Doubtful)	= 1
Grade IV	(Unsatisfactory)	= Nil.

		= 22

These results show a high standard of production and handling of Ice-Cream.

Food Shops.

In general Food shops are cleanly kept and are now all connected to the sewerage system. A steady improvement has been noted in the standard of cleanliness, particularly regarding the hands and clothing of assistants etc.

Food condemned.

The following is a summary of food inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption during the year:-

Tinned Meat	= 7 tins.	Fresh Meat	= 3½ lbs.
Tinned Fish	= 3 "	Fresh Bacon	= 41 "
Tinned Fruit	= 55 "	Fresh Fish	= 127 "
Tinned Milk	= 7 "	Fresh Cheese	= 28½ "
Tinned Vegetables	= 46 "	Fresh Cheese	= 7 pkts.
Tinned Cat Food.	= 2 "		

Meat Inspection.

There is no routine slaughterhouse inspection of meat as the two slaughter houses in the town are not at present in use.

Meat sold in the shops has been found to be quite wholesome. It does not appear to keep very well and this may be due to the inadequate chilling at the slaughterhouses. Only 3½ lbs of carcase meat has been found to be unfit during the year. It is anticipated that the private slaughterhouses may resume slaughtering during the coming year.

Bakehouses.

There are two bakehouses in use in the District. Neither of them are underground bakehouses. Each of them has been inspected during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Cafes, Hotels & Restaurants.

There is only one small cafe in the District. Conditions at the Cafe have improved vastly over previous two years and this improvement has been maintained during 1953. The cleanliness of the Cafe, and of the attendants, is quite satisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

No outbreak of Food Poisoning was notified during the year. During the 'Galtee Cream' scare, two tins of this cream were found in Neyland, but bacteriological examination revealed no pathogenic cultures.

HOUSING.

During the year the last 3 houses forming Picton Fields Estate No. 3 were completed. These houses were again all of three bedroom type. It is understood that the Council proposes to build houses of two and four bedroom sizes in the next scheme. These may help in housing some of the applicants who would not normally be considered for a three bedroom house. There are many elderly couples on the housing list who will welcome the inclusion of these smaller houses in the next scheme.

Houses Controlled by the Council.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Council Houses.	71	74
Temporary Housing Units.	1	1
Requisitioned premises.	1	1+

+ The requisitioned premises was de-requisitioned during 1953.

Rehousing & Overcrowding.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Number of Families rehoused.	9	6
Number of Families on Housing List.	36	45 (approx)
Number of cases of overcrowding.	9	6

At the end of 1953 a total of 86 Families had been rehoused by the Council.

Inspections, Repairs, Demolitions etc.

During the year 203 inspections of property were made, with a view to effecting repairs. 12 Informal Notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936 and one Statutory Notice was served. Two Notices were served under the Housing Act, 1936, on properties which were unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense. In one of these cases an undertaking was accepted by the Council that the premises would not, once vacated, be relet for habitation, until all necessary repairs had been carried out to the Council's satisfaction.

There has been a falling off in the number of applicants for improvements grants during the year, despite the fact that there are a very large proportion of suitable properties in the town.

Picton Fields Estate No. 1.

The 50 houses on this estate still suffered during the year from various defects. During the year an external snowcemming treatment was applied externally to all houses with satisfactory results. Many of the minor defects have been rectified and most of the more serious leakage through the windows has been lessened or stopped. Broken and defective floors were retiled in 26 houses and towards the end of the year a contract was ready for tenders for replacing the worst leaking windows with metal windows.

Picton Fields Estate No. 2.

Three of the new houses on the Estate was completed during the year and all are now completed. The houses appear to be perfectly satisfactory.

Picton Fields Estate No. 4.

Negotiations have been carried on during the year with landowners with a view to purchasing land for the next housing Estate, to be known as Picton Fields Estate No. 4. It is understood that the major part of this Estate which will hold probably 26 or 28 houses will be situated on the field south of Riga Avenue. It has been decided that the houses shall be of the new or non-traditional type and tenders have been invited from two firms erecting such houses.

Factories & Workshops.

There are eight powered and three non-powered factories in the District. Each of these were inspected during the year.

PART III.GENERAL HYGIENE & SANITATION.Refuse Disposal.

The collection of household refuse is now made on a once weekly basis collection. Owing to the less offensive nature of the dry refuse now collected, starting hours have been put back to 8 am. and collection continues through the day, previously when night soil was collected, work started at 6 am. and finished at 10 am., the present service is economical and unoffensive, and is felt to be quite satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

The major sewerage scheme for the district is now in operation. This is of great benefit to the District specially from a sanitary point of view. The sewage disposal plant consists of sedimentation tanks and sludge drying beds. In bad weather there is occasionally an offensive odour.

Public Conveniences.

The Public Convenience again suffered from vandalism during the year, the lighting system having been once more torn out. It is proposed to re-set a new light firmly embedded in concrete so as to avoid re-occurrence of this nuisance.

General Nuisances.

During the year seven informal notices have been served under the Public Health Act 1936, and 12 Statutory Notices. The Statutory Notices were for the provision of sewerage facilities to certain premises. All have either been complied with or are formulating schemes to comply.

Disinfection & Disinfestation.

During the year 8 premises were disinfected.

Rodent Control.

Early in 1953 a large scale treatment to eliminate rats was carried out on the Tip. This was effective and the rodent population was kept down very well for the rest of the year. All baiting is now being done with 'Warfarin'. In view of the number of pets, animals etc, that are allowed to roam loose in the District, great care has always been taken that none take poison laid down for the rats. Warfarin should eliminate some of this danger. Hedges leading from the tip into the town are still a source of trouble from rats, and it is thought that there may be still a rat population in the older houses at the bottom of the town. Every house or property in the town has been surveyed for the presence of rats during 1953 and three large scale 'tip' treatments carried out.

Mortuaries.

There is no Mortuary in the town. Use is made of a modern up-to-date Mortuary at Milford Haven (4 Miles).

Sanitation in Public Houses and other Public Buildings.

The sanitation in these premises has improved greatly as a result of the completion of the sewerage scheme. Close contact should be kept with the Licensing Authorities to ensure that licensees make full use of the drainage provided.